

Listing of claims:

1. (previously amended): A flexible, kink-resistant introducer sheath comprising:
 - an inner tube extending to a distal end;
 - a wire coil wound around said inner tube extending to an end spaced proximally from said inner tube distal end;
 - a first outer tube disposed around said wire coil and said inner tube therewithin to a first outer tube distal end spaced proximally from said wire coil distal end such that a distal end portion of said wire coil extends distally therebeyond; and
 - at least a second outer tube disposed around said wire coil and said inner tube therewithin extending distally from said first outer tube distal end and covering said distal end portion of said wire coil and extending slightly beyond said distal end of said inner tube,
 - said first outer tube being of a material having a relatively hard durometer, and said second outer tube being of a material of a substantially softer durometer than said material of said first outer tube.
2. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said first and second outer tubes are bonded to each other and to said wire coil, and to said inner tube between windings of said wire coil.
3. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 2, wherein an outwardly facing surface of said inner tube has been roughened to enhance bonding thereto of said first and second outer tubes.
4. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 2, wherein said bonding is heat bonding.
5. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein a radiopaque marker band is affixed to said wire coil distal end within said second outer tube.

6. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said second outer tube is polymeric and contains radiopaque filler.
7. (previously amended) The intravascular sheath according to claim 6, wherein said second outer tube contains between about 20% and 85% by weight of radiopaque filler particles.
8. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 6, wherein said second outer tube contains about 80% by weight of radiopaque filler particles.
9. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said first outer tube is substantially free of radiopaque filler.
10. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said second outer tube comprises a material having a durometer of at least 5 D lower than that of the material of the first outer tube.
11. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 10, wherein said first outer tube comprises a material having a durometer of about 56D to 58D.
12. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said second outer tube comprises a material having a durometer of between about 10D and 75D.
13. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 12, wherein said second outer tube comprises a material having a durometer of about 39D.
14. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said first and second outer tubes are distinctly different in color or shade.

15. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said wire coil comprises flat wire.

16. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein a distal tip region of the sheath is arcuate.

17. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 16, wherein said arcuate distal tip region has a length of about 1 cm or more.

18. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 16, wherein said arcuate distal tip region extends about an angle of about 90°.

19. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said wire coil extends for a length of about five millimeters beyond said distal end of said first outer tube.

20. (previously amended) The introducer sheath according to claim 1, wherein said inner tube is unitarily formed.

21. (previously amended) A flexible, kink resistant introducer sheath comprising:

an inner tube extending to a distal end;

a wire coil wound around said inner tube extending to an end spaced proximally from said inner tube distal end;

a first outer tube disposed around said wire coil and said inner tube therewithin to a first outer tube distal end spaced proximally from said wire coil distal end such that a distal end portion of said wire coil extends for a length of about 1 cm distally therebeyond; and

a second outer tube distally from said first outer tube distal end and disposed around and covering said distal end portions of said wire coil and said inner tube therewithin and extending slightly therebeyond;

said first outer tube being of a material having a durometer of between about 50 D and 60 D, and said second outer tube being of a material of a durometer of between about 35 D and 45 D;

said second outer tube comprises a radiopaque material;

said wire coil is of flat wire;

said first and second outer tubes are bonded to said inner tube and to said wire coil.